

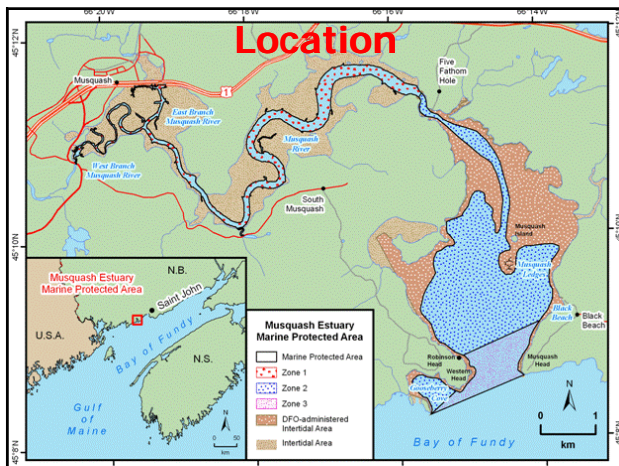
Historical and present local community involvement in Musquash Estuary resources: use and protection

Rabindra Singh, PhD
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ecosystem Management
St. George, NB

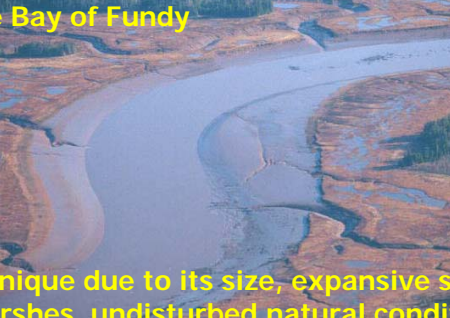
Photo by D. Thompson

Presentation Overview

- **Introduction**
 - Location
 - Why so special?
 - Designation
- **Community involvement**
 - Pre- and Post-designation
- **Community history of resource use and support for the MPA (video clips)**



Why so special?

- 
- Largest intact estuarine ecosystem in the Bay of Fundy
 - Unique due to its size, expansive salt marshes, undisturbed natural condition and diverse habitat and wildlife

Why so special?

- Little industrial development
- 8 representative ecotypes – rocky bottom to salt marshes
- Fairly well studied

Where It All Began

- 
- 1988- Proposed as a candidate MPA by CCNE, with support from FNFA
 - 1999- Planning Group formed
 - 2000- Accepted as an Area of Interest, under the federal Marine Protected Areas Program

Chronology

- 2001 – Friends of Musquash formed
- includes residents and landowners
- 2002 – Musquash MPA Advisory Committee
- 2006 - Province transfers intertidal areas to federal gov't. December 14, 2006, Musquash Estuary MPA is designated under Canada's *Oceans Act*



Fundy North Fishermen's Association Pre-designation Use

- 12 boat commercial lobster fishery
- A small soft-shell clam harvest
- A small six boat scallop fishery

Support

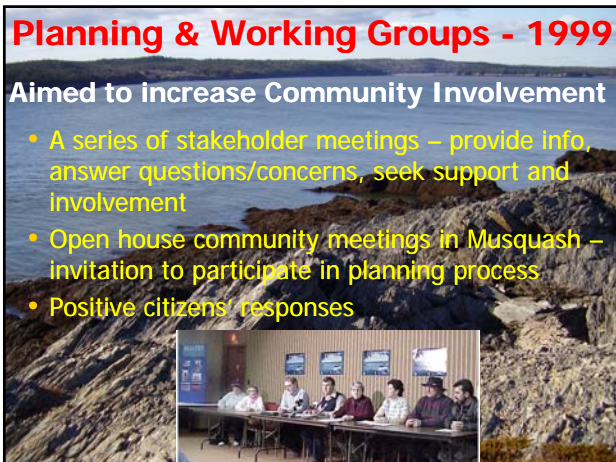
- Healthier estuary
- More productive estuary
- Continued lobster, scallop and clam fisheries



Planning & Working Groups - 1999

Aimed to increase Community Involvement

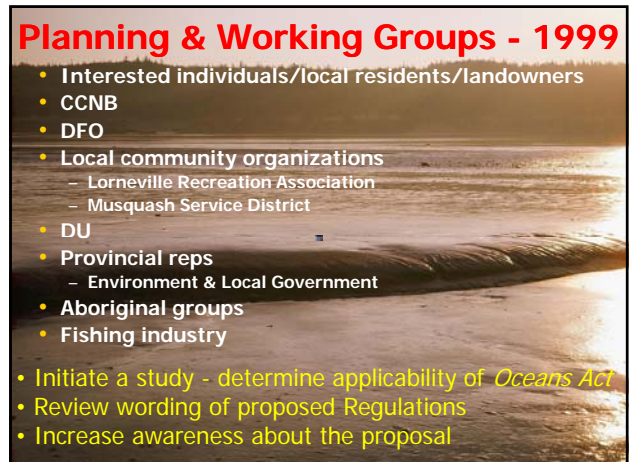
- A series of stakeholder meetings – provide info, answer questions/concerns, seek support and involvement
- Open house community meetings in Musquash – invitation to participate in planning process
- Positive citizens' responses



Planning & Working Groups - 1999

- Interested individuals/local residents/landowners
- CCNB
- DFO
- Local community organizations
 - Lorneville Recreation Association
 - Musquash Service District
- DU
- Provincial reps
 - Environment & Local Government
- Aboriginal groups
- Fishing industry

- Initiate a study - determine applicability of *Oceans Act*
- Review wording of proposed Regulations
- Increase awareness about the proposal



Planning Group & UNB Ocean Mapping Group (2000)

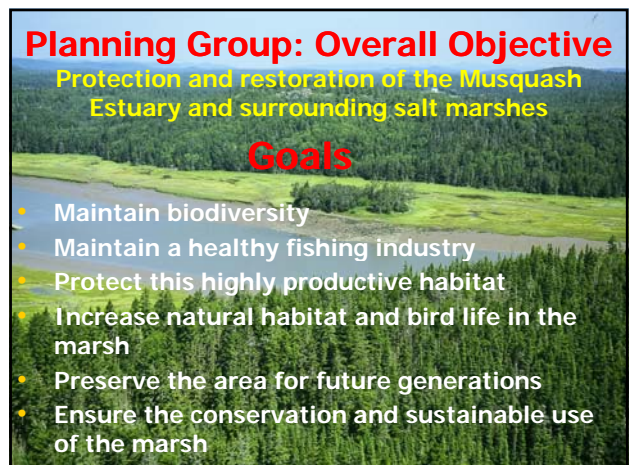


Planning Group: Overall Objective

Protection and restoration of the Musquash Estuary and surrounding salt marshes

Goals

- Maintain biodiversity
- Maintain a healthy fishing industry
- Protect this highly productive habitat
- Increase natural habitat and bird life in the marsh
- Preserve the area for future generations
- Ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the marsh



Friends of Musquash (2001)

- Local residents/landowners & community groups
 - Means of gathering community viewpoints
 - Provide input into the future management, communication and outreach

MPA Advisory Committee (2002)

- Formal Committee
- Stakeholders from Planning Group & Others
 - CCG, Universities, NCC, WWF
 - Saint John Port Authority

Historical Use of the Area

2010 – Oral history video recordings by interviewing local knowledgeable residents

- Fishing
- Settlements
- Marsh use
- Boat building
- Aboriginal use

Use of Fishery Resources

Important salmon fishing area
Lobster fishing
Weir fishing – herring
Cod fishing
Clam fishing
Other ground fish species

Settlements and Industries

Loyalist – military officers
Building of Dykes
Wood working operations
Six saw mills during the 1800's
Exports of lumber

Use of Marsh

Dykes
- farming
- cattle grazing

Boat Building

Burton Reid – retired boat builder

Logs from forests
Use hand tools
- Fishing boats
- Repairs

Aboriginal Use of the Area

Aboriginal groups – as far as NS
No permanent settlements
Summer camping
- Fishing
- Basket making
- Sweet grass



Community Support

Nomination and present support as a
Marine Protected Area



Questions?

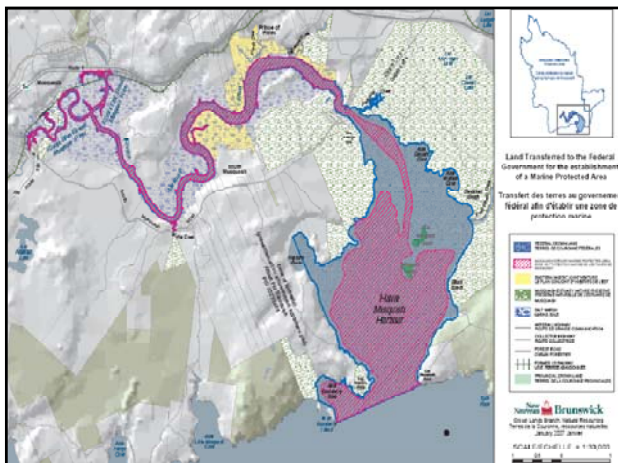
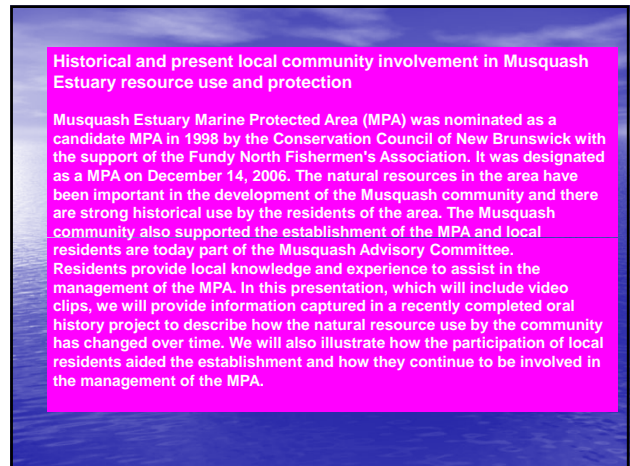
Rabindra.Singh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Photo by M.L. Buzeta and M. Strong



Historical and present local community involvement in Musquash Estuary resource use and protection

Musquash Estuary Marine Protected Area (MPA) was nominated as a candidate MPA in 1998 by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick with the support of the Fundy North Fishermen's Association. It was designated as a MPA on December 14, 2006. The natural resources in the area have been important in the development of the Musquash community and there are strong historical use by the residents of the area. The Musquash community also supported the establishment of the MPA and local residents are today part of the Musquash Advisory Committee. Residents provide local knowledge and experience to assist in the management of the MPA. In this presentation, which will include video clips, we will provide information captured in a recently completed oral history project to describe how the natural resource use by the community has changed over time. We will also illustrate how the participation of local residents aided the establishment and how they continue to be involved in the management of the MPA.



MPA Regulations



